

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A handheld computing device comprising:
a processing unit having a communication interface, the
processing unit including a first communication interface for
communication with a visual display unit; and
a detachable visual display unit, the detachable visual display
unit communicatively coupled to the first communication interface by a
second communication interface;
wherein an identifier indicia is passed by the second
communication interface to the processing unit via the first
communication interface to indicate to the processing unit the properties
of the detachable visual display unit.
 2. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the first
communication interface includes a wireless communication interface.
 3. The handheld computing device of claim 1 wherein the
detachable visual display unit includes a flat, rigid display.
 4. The handheld computing device of claim 1 wherein the
detachable visual display unit includes a flexible display.
 5. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the
detachable visual display unit is expandable.
 6. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the
detachable visual display unit includes a cathode ray tube display.
 7. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the
detachable visual display unit includes a LCD screen.

1 8. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the
2 detachable visual display unit includes an electronic whiteboard.

1 9. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the
2 detachable visual display unit is ruggedized.

1 10. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the
2 detachable visual display unit is weather protected.

1 11. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the
2 detachable visual display unit includes a backlit display.

1 12. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the
2 detachable visual display unit includes a reflective display.

1 13. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the
2 detachable visual display unit includes a monochrome display.

1 14. The handheld computing device of claim 1, wherein the
2 detachable visual display unit includes a color display.

1 15. A handheld computing device facilitating a detachable visual
2 display unit comprising:
3 a processing unit;
4 a power source;
5 a communication port for communicating with a detachable
6 visual display unit.

1 16. The handheld computing device of claim 15, wherein the
2 communication port is capable of receiving information representative of
3 properties of the detachable visual display unit.

1 17. The handheld computing device of claim 16, wherein the
2 communication port receives information representative of the detachable
3 visual display unit properties based on at least one identifier pin
4 associated with the detachable visual display unit.

1 18. The handheld computing device of claim 16, wherein the
2 communication port receives information representative of the detachable
3 visual display unit properties based on an identifier signal transmitted by
4 the detachable visual display unit.

1 19. The handheld computing device of claim 15, wherein the
2 processing unit includes a plurality of display drivers utilized based on the
3 information representative of the properties of the detachable visual
4 display unit.

1 20. The handheld computing device of claim 15, wherein the
2 communication port includes a wireless transceiver.

1 21. The handheld computing device of claim 20, wherein the
2 wireless transceiver communicates using the Bluetooth wireless network
3 protocol.

1 22. A visual display unit for a handheld computing device, the
2 visual display unit comprising:
3 a housing detachable from the handheld computing device;
4 a display screen; and
5 a communication interface including an identifier indicia to
6 indicate to a handheld computing device the properties of the visual
7 display unit.

1 23. The visual display unit of claim 22, wherein the visual display
2 unit is foldable to present a larger or smaller display screen.

1 24. The visual display unit of claim 23, wherein the visual display
2 unit includes an apparatus to anchor the visual display unit to the
3 handheld computing device.

1 25. The visual display unit of claim 22, wherein the display
2 screen is color.

1 26. A method of displaying data from a handheld computing
2 device, comprising:
3 detecting the properties of a detachable visual display unit
4 communicatively coupled to the handheld computing device;
5 updating display drivers based on the detachable visual
6 display unit properties detected; and
7 transmitting data from the handheld computing device to the
8 communicatively coupled detachable visual display unit.

1 27. The method of claim 26, wherein detecting the properties of
2 a detachable visual display unit includes receiving a signal transmitted by
3 the detachable visual display unit.

1 28. The method of claim 26, further comprising:
2 bringing the detachable visual display unit into
3 communication with the handheld computer device.

1 29. The method of claim 28, further comprising:
2 detaching the detachable visual display unit from the
3 handheld computing device.